



EPA Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

Anniston, AL

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5105)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

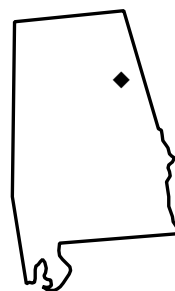
EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, and safely clean up brownfields to promote their sustainable reuse. Brownfields are abandoned, idled, or under-used industrial and commercial facilities where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years, with additional funding provided for greenspace) to test assessment models and facilitate coordinated assessment and cleanup efforts at the federal, state, tribal, and local levels; and job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years) to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and, cleanup revolving loan fund program (each funded up to \$1,000,000 over five years) to provide financial assistance for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

EPA has selected the City of Anniston for a Brownfields Assessment Pilot. Located in central Alabama, Anniston (population 26,623) was founded in 1872 as a company town for the Woodstock Iron Company. Due to its close proximity to rail distribution lines and rich iron deposits, Anniston attracted other iron foundries. By 1929, the city was home to 117 foundries, most located in West Anniston. Many of these foundries have closed and been abandoned. The Pilot targets three city-owned abandoned sites in West Anniston that are key to revitalization of the area—the Chalkline Apparel Mill, the Abandoned Foundry Site, and the Anchor Metals Site. These and other properties in the area will be addressed in accordance with priorities determined by the community and redevelopment potential.

While some foundries still operate in the area, the closure and abandonment of foundries and other industries over the years have had a negative impact on West Anniston. Once thriving areas have declined and become distressed as workers moved elsewhere to find jobs. More than a third of the largely minority population that remains in West Anniston lives below

PILOT SNAPSHOT



Anniston, Alabama

Date of Announcement:
April 2001

Amount: \$200,000

Profile: The Pilot initially targets three brownfields sites in West Anniston for assessment and establishes a Brownfields Task Force Committee to build consensus within the community regarding appropriate reuse of the sites.

Contacts:

City of Anniston
(256) 231-7754

Regional Brownfields Team
U.S. EPA - Region 4
(404) 562-8661

Visit the EPA Region 4 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/region4/wastepgs/brownfpgs/bf.htm>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:

<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

the poverty level and fewer than half have a high school education. Previous revitalization efforts in the area have been unsuccessful largely because of perceived contamination at many of the former industrial sites and the lack of a workable redevelopment strategy. The targeted sites were chosen because they are in highly visible locations close to downtown Anniston and are near areas of high minority and low income populations.

OBJECTIVES

The Pilot will support the transfer of the targeted brownfields properties to public or private entities capable of returning them to economically or socially productive use compatible with the community.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Establishing a Brownfields Task Force Committee to conduct outreach activities within the community regarding appropriate reuse of the sites;
- Conducting assessments of targeted properties and developing cost analyses and remediation plans for cleanup; and
- Developing a Geographic Information System (GIS) with information about the targeted sites.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.